

Digest for Retirees
December 2002

I have returned from EANGUS' conference held in Niagara Falls, New York, August 17-21 2002. We elected a new EANGUS President, Terry Dell (MSG Ret.) Let's give Terry all the help we can. President Dell has appointed me, the Continuity & Retirees Affairs Committee (Vice Chairman) along with Karl Spohn (Chairman) for two more years. Karl and I worked real well the last four years and I'm looking forward to working with Chairman Spohn for the next two years. The Continuity & Retirees Committee met Tuesday August 21, 2002 at 1500 Hr./ 3PM until 1700Hrs. /5PM. We covered information about TriCare for Life, Tricare Pharmacy Programs, Federal long Term Care Insurance and Medicare Cuts.

Tricare for life- it's important to up date your Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting Systems (DEERS) record to show any change of address, family status such as marriage, divorce, birth or adoption. Each family member's eligibility is independent and must be updated. Home addresses are important because DEERS uses them to send out information on health benefits. To up date by computer go to DEERS web site or visit any personal office that has an Uniformed Service I.D. card facility or call the DSO Telephone Center at 1.800-538-9552 or Mail to DSO, ATTN: COA, 400 Giggling Road, Seaside, and CA.93955-6771.

Tricare Pharmacy Programs- the Department of Defense announced recently that they propose to set up new rules for formulary on all Tricare pharmacy Programs. We do not anticipate any changes to the pharmacy program until at least next Spring or Summer. We plan to follow this one closely and report through this publication.

Federal Long Term Care- The office of Personal Management (OPM) has contracted with John Hancock and Met Life Insurance companies, who have formed a joint venture, called Long Term Care Partners to provide this insurance coverage. Public Law 106-265 which provides that members of the military services, federal civilian's employees, military retirees and federal civilian retirees, members of the selected Reserve and Gray Area Retirees are also eligible to participate in the program. For more information call 1-800-582-3337 or visit their web site WWW.LTCFEDS.COM.

Medicare Cuts- House Bill HR-3351 and Senate Bills S-1707 and S.2490 have introduced into the Congress to fix the problem permanently. These bills have a large number of cosponsors but personal involvement is needed please call or write your Congressmen.

The 2003 EANGUS AREA IV MID WINTER " BANKS OF THE OUACHITA" WILL BE HELD IN MONROE/WEST MONROE, LA. FEBRUARY 14- 16 2003. This is where all of Area IV business is conducted for the coming year. It is a chance to visit with everyone from the other six States. All retirees should try and attend this Mid Winter meeting in Monroe La. Robbie Nutt has put a lot of work into this Mid Winter for all of us to have a good meeting, so please try to attend. I would like to wish every one a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ernest Guerra (SGM RET.)
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Editor's Note: So EANGUS will have to start the legislative program over to pass bills. So unless Representative and Senators hear from their constituents they do not consider a matter to be of much importance. We must help EANGUS help us by contacting our Congressmen on the legislative issues during this 108th Congress.

Bob Guillory, CMSgt Ret.